

OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEM TASK FORCE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 16, 2006

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

State Capitol Complex, East Building

Olmsted Room

MEMBERS/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

BURR, Steve	Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (IORT) at Utah State University
CUTLER, Riley	Wasatch Touring - Owner/Manager
DEAVER, Mike	Co-Chair , DBED – Division of Tourism
HANSEN, Mike	Manager, State and Local Planning – GOPB
HARJA, John	PLPCO
HERBERT, Gary R.	Co-Chair ; Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah
KORENBLAT, Ashley	Western Spirit Cycling (telephone)
OKERLUND, Ralph	Sevier County Commission
STEVENS, Lynn H.	Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO), Coordinator
TULLIUS, Mary	DNR, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation
WANG, Steve	Quintstar Management Company, Inc.

MEMBERS EXCUSED

ANDERSON, Nan	Utah Tourism Industry Coalition
COLLETT, Craig	Daggett County Commissioner
DURTSCHI, Steve	Utah Back Country Pilots Association
MCKEE, Michael J.	Uintah County Commission
METCALF, Peter	Black Diamond
RASMUSSEN, Roody	Petzl America
SCHAPPERT, Kim	Moab Trails Alliance
STOWELL, Dennis	Iron County Commission
STYLER, Michael R.	Department of Natural Resources, Director
WILSON, Jenny	Salt Lake County Council Member

GUESTS/ PRESENTERS

BRADFORD, Dick	Community and Culture; Retired County Commissioner
----------------	--

STAFF

BOHN, Laura	Project Manager, GOPB (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget)
NEILSON, Nancy	GOPB – Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Introductions – Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert

Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting them to introduce themselves. Steve Wang, a new member of the Task Force, said he works for a family lodging company in Moab; he is a member of the Grand County Travel Council; he grew up in southern Utah; and is very familiar with the outdoor recreation market. This was his first meeting.

Dick Bradford introduced himself. He is a retired county commissioner and has served in State government for thirteen years.

Riley Cutler informed the group that he represents Wasatch Touring which is an outdoor recreation store. They sell bicycles in the summer time and cross country skiing equipment in the winter. They have been in business for thirty-four years and they are well established. They are well known around the country.

It was noted that Peter Metcalf is out of the country at this time; Roody Rasmussen is attending his son's graduation ceremony; and Ashley Korenblat will participate in the meeting by telephone because of a work emergency.

Changes:

Kim Schappert of the Moab Trails Alliance has found it necessary to resign from the Task Force due to scheduling conflicts. Lieutenant Governor Herbert requested that she submit a letter of resignation addressed to him and to Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. To replace her and to be in compliance with the Executive Order, names of persons representing the same group that Kim did will be submitted.

Mike Hansen, Manager of the Planning Section of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) requested that he be replaced by Laura Bohn who has been acting as staff for the Task Force. "We're not overstaffing but we're stretched too thin as it is in our office and if everyone is agreeable to it, Laura takes my place and Nancy continues as staff support. We're granting grants. We're suffocating. We know Laura is capable," Mike said. Lynn Stevens then added, "Well I don't know about that, she is getting married! That'll dilute her attention." Everyone added their congratulations to Laura!

Announcements

Mike Deaver presented a new booklet with a Utah add in it. It is a Utah State Parks booklet wherein local communities and guides and operators will have more opportunity to promote the State Parks. The add will also run in all of the State Parks booklets.

Mary Tullius announced a new park for hang gliding and paragliding near the point of the mountain. She took a tandem flight to look over the area; they discussed it with UDOT and she decided it was a good thing to do. They completed a three-way trade and it didn't cost the Office of Tourism anything. They were deeded the land by UDOT and by Staker Parson. "Now we have a flight park. And it's going to be called Flight Park State Recreation Area. It's not actually a state park but it is a recreation area. There's a celebration scheduled with the Governor on June 30th. We're really excited about it. It will be under the Land and Water Conservation Act Restrictions. It is one of the most renowned area to catch air. There are people that come here just to do that.

II. Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2005

Action Taken:

Steve Burr made the motion to approve the minutes and Mary Tullius seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Subcommittee Reports

There were no objections to the Lieutenant Governor's request to change the order of the subcommittee reports. Subcommittee Report #8 was moved to #1 with all other reports remaining in the same order.

The Lieutenant Governor and Governor Huntsman will be holding a press conference today to kick off commuter rail at which time Lieutenant Governor Herbert will be excused.

#8 Task Force Manifesto

Chair: Mike Deaver
Committee: Lt. Governor Herbert, Ashley Korenblat, Jenny Wilson
Issues: Identify Mission, Budget, Staffing, Legislative issues, Accountability
Action: Funding, OIA, Staffing

Mike Deaver provided copies of the newly formatted "Outdoor Recreation Economic Ecosystem Task Force Manifesto and Mission." The first two paragraphs read:

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life!" John Muir (year?)

"The standard of 'life' that Utah's land and nature provides to its stewards, comes through the peace of re-connecting with the great outdoors and the sustainability afforded by its natural resources. It is the aim of all involved with the Outdoor Recreation Task Force to help facilitate change and make recommendations in regards to the dynamic outdoor economic ecosystem of Utah."

After some discussion it was decided to change the first two items in the Tactics section to read:

1. Identify the State's outdoor recreation gems and economic ecosystems with input of the public, locally elected officials; and associated agencies.
2. Identify protection and preservation, and management issues from these gems that can be remedied, or assisted by the ORTF (Outdoor Recreation Task Force)

Steve Burr of the Outdoor Institute for Recreation and Tourism at USU, pointed out that regarding visitation information and whether it is desirable to have visitation or not (detrimental or beneficial to an area) the internet has become a huge challenge. The problem can be that there is too much information or more than we want available on the internet. Ralph Okerlund of the Sevier County Commission pointed out that there are places the Task Force would not want to promote.

#1 Green River Corridor

Ashley Korenblat provided a brief summary of a process to analyze the benefits of a Wild and Scenic River Designation for the Green River Corridor.

- i. Make a list of pros and cons for a cost benefit type of analysis (water)
- ii. Consider the river in three segments, upper, middle, and lower.

- iii. Does the lower section meet Wild and Scenic River Designation requirements?

She also listed some pros and cons. "It would bolster the State's Whitewater industry by putting Utah on the map as a whitewater river destination and would protect the view shed and backcountry character of the river from resource extraction. The negative would be that water rights for growth in Uintah and Duchesne Counties and possibly the Ute Tribe would be affected."

The alternatives could include a Wild and Scenic designation for the lower section only or proposing that a two mile corridor in the BLM RMP if it is designated be a Special Recreation Management Area.

Discussion:

The BLM allows 2 or 3 permits a day in Desolation and Gray Canyons (referred to as Deso/Gray by John Harja). Each permit can include 24 people. However, the permits are almost impossible to get unless there is a cancellation.

Mike Deaver said that the Office of Tourism is promoting Whitewater Rafting as an iconic element to their advertising and there is an icon for it on their website at <http://www.utah.com/raft/>. There is also a TV commercial that is coming out the first of July that has reference to Whitewater Rafting. It is being advertised.

Steve Burr said that right now Utah has no (Wild and Scenic River) designation but Tim Garcia of the Forest Service said there are 95 river segments (some without water in them) that are under study in the State of Utah. John Harja added, "All 95 rivers are currently designated as 'eligible' by the Forest Service in their planning and will have to be evaluated as 'suitable.' They (the rivers) have been under study for the last couple of years. There will be a proposal in the Washington County Lands Bill to make a site on the Virgin River which is Zion's National Park a **Wild and Scenic River**. And just so you all know, Lynn (Stevens) and I have been discussing with the Forest Service instituting a statewide study of all the Forest Service segments for suitability."

Ashley said Deso is in the greatest danger of resource extraction. "That's why," **John Harja** said, "Lynn and I... are talking to the Price City office about their plan. Currently the particular area in Desolation is covered by a Wilderness Study Area. If you layer a Wild and Scenic on top of it what does it mean; especially when the Indians control the east half of the river? State law does require that before the State can support a designation a certain number of studies have to be done, concerning economics, water flow and a few other things. We want to make sure we don't go counter to those requirements."

"One of the things the Task Force ought to work on is promoting Whitewater Rafting. And then the next step would be to see if some kind of designation of the water source is beneficial," Lynn Stevens said."

"There is a conservation easement on the Native American side of the river and the Wilderness Study Area designation on the other side. The question is would a Wild and Scenic designation really add to protection and it could actually detract from tourism depending on restrictions according to John and Lynn."

“The water right they are referring to is the water that comes out of Flaming Gorge that is still available and some of our unused Colorado River water in general. The issue about Wild and Scenic Rivers is you cannot put any diversions on the shore. So to put a Wild and Scenic River... on Uintah County may not make sense...”

“The second issue is would a Wild and Scenic River designation create a Federal Reserve Water Right as well? We have talked at great length with the BLM about that. We don’t believe it needs to in Desolation Canyon because Flaming Gorge and the upper river are the natural up and down flow of the river. So the BLM is prepared to say that Wild and Scenic River doesn’t need a Federal Reserve Water Right.” “A restriction on diversion might have a negative effect on irrigators,” according to Lynn Stevens.

“The San Juan River was on the list for a few minutes and then came off because the reservation boundary is in the middle of the river not on the banks.” (Lynn Stevens) Riley pointed out that you cannot camp on the Indian side of the San Juan River.

Ashley said the committee would meet again looking at two points; what are the speaking points here and is there an opportunity here? “Another thing to consider would be the rivers designation. There are actually three different designations. A Wild designation is very different from a Scenic but there’s also Recreational. Down below West Water like the Colorado Daily - that can be designated as Natural Recreational River; it has road access; developed camp grounds and such. That designation also puts it on the map. It’s a Wild and Scenic River but it’s a recreational designation.” (John Harja)

Mike Deaver expressed appreciation for the discussion and Ashley’s effort. He said the goal is to find out what the different designations possible are and based on those issues what are the economic and environmental impacts to the communities and to those areas.

#2 Mexican Mountain WSA (Emery County)

It’s important to different people for different issues. Emery County has some claims on it; some RS2477’s in the area and it is a Wilderness study area. “There is one issue that the BLM closed the road that used to go around Mexican Mountain and there’s an air strip out there. It’s been closed for a couple of years. I don’t think the county appreciated that.

#3 Cache County – Tony Grove

Mike Hansen said his group was assigned Tony Grove which he says is ‘green and just beautiful’ in the summer. He hadn’t contacted Steve Burr or Roody Rasmussen in his group but presented an online Google search on the internet to show everyone the different types of information coming up. On one site that comes up on the list you get a ‘natural avalanches’ to do list on how to start one and how to run away. The Trails.com people say ‘this has to be God’s country’ (Tony Grove) and the divers love the place as well. Then the snowmobiler’s say we need to get on this because it’s going to be ‘protected.’ “This is one of those situations where you say ‘protect’ verses ‘preserve.’ This is where the semantics make a big difference. Because if you say ‘protect,’ to this website they think that means Wilderness, no more snowmobiling...” He read from the site, “Our job is to protect the ride for the owners of the 303,000 snowmobiles...” He also showed a site where they say there are 19 caves currently being surveyed.

This Google search shows who cares about it and the conflicts out there. The Forest Service is looking at Tony Grove also and reviewing what they can do about the conflicts. They're proposing to separate the snowmobiler's from the hikers with a designated route. That involves cutting vegetation... signs on the trees, etc. They're trying to create a collaborative process for all of the issues.

Identifying this as a gem was "pretty easy and pretty obvious from the survey as well," Mike said. "The second task is to identify the issues." John Harja said there are a couple of things the Task Force could do. A lot of the problem the Forest Service was dealing with had to do with segregating the back country skiers from the snowmobilers. John said that, "Part of the problem lies in where they all start their trips. All the snowmobilers and all the back country skiers are in the same place." The solution "could be as simple as pushing UDOT to have Cache County provide another 'off place' to get off the highway; one for the snowmobilers and one for the skiers. That would help. It wouldn't solve everything but it is possibly something you could recommend. That could apply to all Logan Canyons."

Steve Burr said that IORT is doing a project funded by the USU Extension Service regarding summer use of the area. The Forest Service says they don't have a good handle on the recreational use by the residents in Rich, Cache and possibly Box Elder Counties of the Logan Ranger district. So the IORT project will include a telephone survey of residents to find out their use, their characteristics and the management issues. "The survey will start after Labor Day. Then they will take that information and share it with the different stake holder groups. It could be an ATV club; it could be the Audubon Society; and different groups that use the Forest and then the final phase of this is to try to bring representatives from the different groups together into a collaborative learning process to provide input to the Forest Service for their travel management plan. This project is focused primarily on summer travel, summer recreation; it may lead into something in the winter. It's inevitable because we're going to ask residents about their use of the Forest."

"The other thing that happened was that the (backcountry) Nordic skiers and snowmobilers had an event up there where they partnered to provide Rescue/Emergency services. There you have skiers working with snowmobilers. And everybody's happy. So stay tuned. And there are all sorts of other examples of this kind of collaboration partnerships happening around the West." (Steve Burr)

Mary Tullius said they have been involved to some extent because they have a grant program for the Off Highway Vehicles. Our OHV Coordinator has been trying to come up with a solution for the snowmobilers that still meet some of the needs of the backcountry skiers. She will find out their actual involvement; whether it is money to come up with a separate trail head to work with UDOT or whatever it is. She will report back to the Task Force.

"The other thing that has been happening is that Utah State University has been having discussions with SITLA about the Beaver Mountain Track ... which is also the area of contention. The University, I think, is actually interested in acquiring that Beaver Mountain Track and it might be a land trade with the USU SITLA land down in the Manti LaSalle outside of Moab. A little closer, part of that is to have a Logan Canyon Learning Center. We're also looking at it as the area would be a wonderful Recreation Resources Management and Laboratory for students. Maybe some associated development with the ski

resort. ORC would be involved with respect to a Winter Nordic Center. We might have a new recreation gem up there!” (Steve Burr)

Mike Hansen will prepare a deliverable on Cache County for the August 8th meeting. He will explain the situation; add what the Task Force did to study it and then make a recommendation through a White Paper. Mike Deaver felt this would be one of the best ‘tangible’ examples of the Task Force process.

#10 Public Relations/News

The Salt Lake Tribune ran an article entitled “Wharton: Compromise is trampled on ATV access” by Tom Wharton. Mike Deaver said the article was about ATV access and he asked if the Task Force should get involved when these things flare out. “Do we issue a statement?” We’re not here to create policy and we don’t have the authority to speak on the Governor’s behalf.

According to Riley Cutler the BLM asked that a subcommittee be formed because they had so many complaints. He feels that the first step to a solution is to admit that there is a conflict and to agree to work on a compromise. Steve Burr said that there is an academic term for what Riley described. The term is ‘asymmetric conflict,’ where one party perceives a conflict with another party, another recreational user but not vice versa.

Mike Deaver asked if the Task Force should respond to press releases. Lynn Stevens said it may depend on the issue and the location. “This issue has been on the statewide Resource Advisory Council for the State BLM. They started the study group. We had another RAC meeting last week come to no conclusion about what they are going to do about a decision on the Factory Butte. In this case, any response to this article would be a BLM obligation not a State obligation. It’s still an unresolved management challenge for the BLM.”

Ralph Okerlund pointed out that “you have local governments working on issues like this for a long, and negotiations. We might come across as being a little bit heavy handed if we jump in and make some recommendations based on what we see as potential controversial issues that may conflict with both side of the issue and may put us in a position where we end up being part of the problem instead of the solution.”

After spending so much time on the issue and thinking he was trying to work out a compromise Riley Cutler said he felt bad when the State County Association kept sending him letters stating they felt the area should be totally open to OHV use, ignoring all the work we had done... We have to be careful as this organization in how we project ourselves if there is a group already trying to work on it. Maybe we just need to encourage them to come up with a good solution.

When people ask what does this Task Force do and what are you doing about it? Whether it’s this issue or Cache County or whatever it may be; if we’ve set that policy internally that we want to be aware of all outdoor recreation economic ecosystem issues but we will make a statement in due course depending on how the Task Force sees it and this is something we chose not to respond to because there are entities in place that are handling it.

Mike Deaver said, “When we see these things I’ll just email it out to you guys so we can all say that we are aware of that issue and then we can discuss it and decide at our meeting if

we want to respond.” I’m also thinking what we can say too that this has been identified as or has the potential to be identified as a recreational gem then according to our charge we would support the protection and preservation and the management of it.

Riley. “That play area, the open area, The Badlands there is world famous for the OHV, motorcyclist in particular and the conflict is that it’s also a famous view shed. “So our statement is, we would support continuing efforts at managing the conflict, getting new management in place before it’s marketed for outdoor recreation. There is an endangered cactus.

Factory Butte – chastising the climber was there a law prohibiting him, the antiquities act has been around for 100 years. Lynn said that, “Almost every aspect of the Antiquities Act has picked up recognizable momentum in the last 20 years as compared to the first 80!”

There was a special cross country ski place that some of you might have been to. But I wrote an article on it. It was a secret place! I wrote an article and told the story but I didn’t describe or name the place. I didn’t describe where it was or how to get there I just told about how great it was to ski there. And I told how we would take a branch and brushing up our track so nobody would find it. And now it is so popular that I can’t even go there. So you have to really be careful. The place is called Tom’s Hill.

#4 Five County Associations of Government

Commissioner Ralph Okerlund clarified the process of the Associations of Government. “AOG’s are regional parts of the State that were put together to handle regional issues where they have similar interests.” The membership consists of city mayors and at least one commissioner from each county. They meet monthly. Begun in the early 1970’s, these Associations “assist the State and local governments with multi-county planning (to avoid duplication), program integration, and optimization of economies of scale.” (See website at <http://governor.utah.gov/planning/aog/aog.htm>.)

Ralph continued, “The Five County Association of Government, as most of you know, is made up of Washington, Iron, Beaver, Kane and Garfield (counties). There a lot of issues in that five county area that have to do with outdoor recreation. You have Garfield County and Kane County where the monument is (Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument), and Washington County where they are trying to put together a lands bill. There are a lot of public lands issues. I have a meeting with those Commissioners from that area this week. Laura if you will let me know which counties have not submitted their gems I will prod the ones who haven’t done it again.” Laura said that part of the problem may be that the counties don’t have a clear understanding of what they are supposed to submit.

Steve Burr will be facilitating a workshop this Tuesday, June 20th for the Scenic Byway Trail Committee on marketing in Garfield County. He said that ‘scenic byways’ are another whole area of gems in the State. He will encourage commissioners at this meeting to submit county gems.

These Associations include regional sections of the State. To be on their agenda you have to notify them a month in advance.

It is the goal of the Task Force to get on the agendas of all Associations of Government.

#5 and #6 Uintah Letter and SITLA

Mary said that she and Mike were going to write a letter to the BLM to protect the view shed at Red Fleet State Park and also there is some property at Steinaker. She said she doesn't feel the property is affordable.

#7 Legislative Involvement

Lynn Stevens reminded the group that it is not appropriate to lobby the Governor; we are an advisory board for him. Mary Tullius added that the Task Force does not make decisions but responds to recommendations the Governor makes. "We can send letters of recommendation to him," she said. Lieutenant Governor Herbert suggested that a White Paper with facts and data be given to the Governor upon which policy can be generated. "We can say, 'this is our recommendation,'" on a specific issue and here is the information from the Task Force.

Mike Deaver said that public comment for these two approaches (Letters of recommendation and White Papers for specific projects) is coming in with their visits to the counties.

Legislatively, Mike said, races are coming up. We are not here to endorse anyone but we feel it is important to get legislatively involved. He handed out a list of everyone running and how to get a hold of them. The Primaries are June 27th. Strongly urge everyone to get involved legislatively.

Nan brought up two things to Mike for discussion. On a federal level there is the Federal Recreation Act of 2006. The Forest Service will soon form Recreational Advisory Committees, RACS. The RAC will have the authority to review every recreation and to make the decision as to the amount of the fee that will be charged and the purposes for the fee and where it will be used. Nan will get us some more information on that.

House Bill 585 has been passed by the House designated as Gateways.

A couple that didn't pass - all Seniors to have access at a reduced rate to sites and another interesting that didn't pass was a voluntary \$2 donation to your car registration for education.

Steve Burr said they will go ahead with the IORT Phase II expansion proposal to the Legislature to seek more funding. Part of this is actually collaborating with Southern Utah University to have an extension associate in Outdoor Rec and Tourism stationed there. It will be like an IORT South.

IORT will make a request for funding for expansion to the legislature.

July 19th is the day that new legislation can be put into effect.

IV. Lunch Break (by Eurest) Thanks to Mike Deaver

V. Public Input

N/A

VI. Schedule Next Meetings

2006 Schedule of Meetings

June 16	Task Force meeting - First Rounds of Discovery
July 21	Interim meetings – Subcommittees: Presentations to Governor’s Office and OIA (Outdoor Industry Assoc.)
July 28	Task Force meeting – Action plans presented, Progress reports
August 8	OIA Board Meeting - Present Findings to OIA/Governor
September 15	Task Force meeting - Progress Reports – new subcommittees
October 20	Task Force meeting - First Rounds of Discovery, Action plans
November 17	Task Force meeting - Findings, Progress Reports, Legislative Plans
December 15	Task Force meeting - Finding, Progress Reports, Legislative Plans
January 15	Session Begins, Interim meeting for presentation
January 20	(OIA begins) Present results year-end report to Governor and OIA

VII. Adjourn 1:30 p.m.

Mike Deaver made the motion to dismiss and Riley Cutler seconded the motion. Obviously, the vote was unanimous.

Action Items:

- **Kim Schappert to submit letters of resignation to Governor Huntsman and Lieutenant Governor Herbert**
- **Laura to notify Ralph of those counties who have not submitted their gems.**
- **Ralph to meet with USAC and encourage counties to submit gem choices.**
- **Make recommendation to UDOT regarding ‘off highway’ access for both back country skiers and snowmobilers.**
- **Mary Tullius to report on The Office of Tourism’s involvement with the Tony Grove collaborative efforts.**
- **Mike Hansen to prepare a deliverable (White Paper) on Cache County for the August meeting.**
- **Peter Metcalf to report on the Mexican Mountain issue at the next meeting.**
- **Note: The large oil painting is of Captain Bonneville surveying the Great Salt Lake. And David Heart also said that the sail boat is out on the water to assist them in surveying. And, it looks like they are having lunch by the side of the Lake.**
-
-
-
- **Send letters to the Counties encouraging them to continue to work on the recreation sites**
- **Marketing – bring issues to Tourism office – CVB’s**
- **Colorado River Corridor**
 - **Contact Kevin Carter of SITLA for status**
 - **Roody Rasmussen to provide copy of previous letter**